

ORCHID STUDIES

III. Two Miscellaneous Notes

- Alex D. Hawkes -

1. A Nomenclatorial Transfer in Cuban Malaxis

In the preparation of a check-list of the Orchidaceae of Cuba, in particular during the reviewing of the liparid genus Malaxis Solander ex Swartz (NOV. GEN. ET SP. PL. PRODR. (1788) 119), a new combination has been found necessary to account for the species Microstylis major Rchb.f.

Malaxis major (Rchb.f.) León ex A.D.Hawkes, comb.nov.

(Microstylis major Rchb.f. in Flora 71 (1888) 153.)

In Hermano León's treatment of the Orchidaceae in his FLORA DE CUBA 1 (1946), on page 372 the combination Malaxis major "Rchb.f." is given. Inasmuch as this transfer was not effected by the younger Reichenbach, we hereby validate it.

The occurrence of this terrestrial species in Cuba is noted by León (l.c.) as follows, "Alain 364 de hojas acovadas subiguales, racimo corimbiforme, se refiere con alguna duda á esta especie. Loma del Gato, Oriente."

2. An Orchid New to South Florida

Bletia patula Hook. var. alba A.D.Hawkes, var.nov.

~~Haec varietas~~ a forma typica speciei differt flores omnino albis.

South Florida: Woodbury s.n., collected by Manley Boss in low scrubby pineland between Black Creek and Goulds, Dade Co., August 1947, TYPE! The type specimen is deposited in the Buswell Herbarium of the University of Miami, and the original living specimens are growing in the greenhouses at that institution.

Bletia patula Hook. (in BOT. MAG. 63 (1836) t.3518) is known from Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, and both the typical rose-flowered plant and the new albino variety are in cultivation in southern Florida. It is to be questioned whether or not the Goulds specimens may not be escapes. Two colonies of the plant in question were located during a field class in Local Flora of the University of Miami, under the supervision of Mr. Roy O. Woodbury, Assistant Professor of Botany. Initially the specimens were supposed to be robust plants of the common Bletia purpurea (Lam.) Dc, but upon production of flowers proved referable to B. patula. The albino variety of this species has apparently not been validly published previously.